UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Friday, September 19, 2025

Watch the Regents Meeting of Sept. 16, 2025

The first day (Sept. 16) of the UC Regents meetings consisted of an open and then closed session of Health Services Committee with public comments at the beginning.

Regent Sures began by decrying the shooting of Charlie Kirk on a college campus in Utah. Many of the public comments dealt with nurse issues: Integration of nurses from Children's Hospital-Oakland with the rest of UC-San Francisco, the "flow pool" policy (which appears to involve moving nurses from one location or one duty to another), nurse staffing, nurse time-keeping, nurse hospital security issues. Contract construction workers complained about substandard contractors being used by UC-SF. UPTE commented on bargaining issues. There was a complaint about mistreatment of a trans patient with no details provided. There were comments about academic freedom, and the current conflict between UC and the feds. The effect of that conflict on grad students was also mentioned. Gender-affirming care was also mentioned on the context of that conflict. There were several anti-Israel comments and also several complaints about antisemitism. The "Chicago Principles" of institutional neutrality were referenced as was physician pay.

After the public comment session ended, EVP of UC Health David Rubin provided a review of UC Health, community benefits provided by UC Health including care uncompensated and undercompensated care. A chart was presented showing estimated lives saved by UC Health hospitals beyond what would be expected considering patient conditions.

After the UC Health review, the committee went into closed session.

As always, we preserve recordings of Regents meeting since the Regents have no policy regarding duration of retention. You can see the open parts of this meeting at the link below:

https://archive.org/details/1-health-services-committee-9-16-2025

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, UC Regents

AEA Climate-in-Profession Survey

From time to time on this blog, yours truly has taken note of activities of the American Economic Association (AEA) in dealing with the professional climate in the economics field.

The AEA has published a survey of its members regarding climate in the field and climate at their workplaces.

As is often the case in such surveys, there is a potential problem of response bias, i.e., responders to the survey may be different, and have different experiences, compared to those who didn't answer. AEA acknowledges that problem. Still, the survey results are interesting and other professional academic organizations might consider undertaking similar surveys.

My sense is that the impetus for this effort came in part from an independent online group of anonymous economic posters, now known as XJMR (https://www.econjobrumors.com/) in which unfiltered comments were often posted. In any case, the most recent survey is at:

https://www.aeaweb.org/resources/member-docs/2023-climate-survey-report.

Below is a sample graphic from the survey:

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy
- Stand up for values in the face of Trump's $300 million cut to UCLA scholars
- Faculty leaders comment on UCB Chancellor Lyon's appearance before House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Remaking the University

- Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025
- Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025
- Why Should We "Stand Up for the UC?" (Guest Post) - 9/1/2025

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

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- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
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- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

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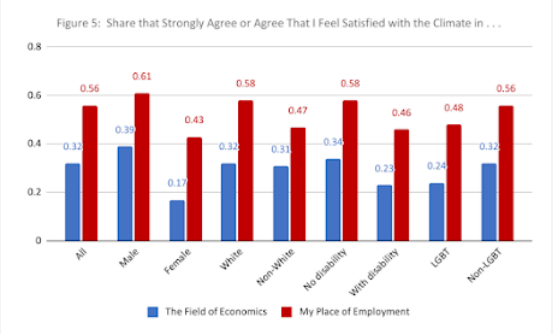

Economists seem happier with the climate in their workplaces than with that of the overall profession.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Straws in the Wind - Part 106

From Inside Higher Ed: *Normally, back-to-school season means that the staff who lead federally funded programs for low-income and first-generation college students are kicking into high gear. But this month, the Trump administration has frozen hundreds of millions of dollars in TRIO grants, creating uncertainty for thousands of programs. Some have been forced to grind to a halt, advocates say. Colleges and nonprofits that had already been approved for the award expected to hear by the end of August that their federal funding was on its way. But rather than an award notice, program leaders received what's known as a "no cost extension," explaining that while programs could continue to operate until the end of the month, they would not yet be receiving the award money.*

Over all, the Council for Opportunity in Education, a nonprofit advocacy group that focuses on supporting TRIO programs, estimates that the Trump administration has withheld about $660 million worth of aid for more than 2,000 TRIO programs. (Congress allocated $1.19 billion to TRIO for the current fiscal year.)

As a result of the freeze, COE explained, many colleges and nonprofit organizations had to temporarily pivot to online services or shutter their programs and furlough staff. Roughly 650,000 college students and high school seniors will lack vital access to academic advising, financial guidance and assistance with college applications if the freeze persists, they say...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2025/09/12/trump-administration-withholds-millions-trio-programs.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, public funding

Another bad traffic weekend in the UCLA area

W Sunset Blvd
SUNSET BLVD ON/OFF-RAMP to SB I-405 CLOSED
SUNSET BLVD ON-RAMP to NB I-405 CLOSED
W Sunset Blvd
UCLA
Sepulveda Blvd
Wilshire Blvd
SB I-405 OFF-RAMP to EB & WB WILSHIRE BLVD CLOSED

From Santa Monica Daily Press: *Caltrans will implement extended weekend lane reductions along Interstate 405 through the Sepulveda Pass, reducing the freeway to three lanes in each direction from 10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19, through 5 a.m. Monday, Sept. 22. The agency strongly encourages motorists to seek alternate routes and explore public transportation options during the construction period.*

Northbound I-405 will be reduced to three lanes between Santa Monica Boulevard and just north of Sunset Boulevard. The Santa Monica Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard on-ramps will be closed. Southbound I-405 will be reduced to three lanes from just north of Sunset Boulevard to eastbound Wilshire Boulevard. The Sunset Boulevard/Church Lane on/off-ramp will be closed, along with the southbound I-405 off-ramp to eastbound and westbound Wilshire Boulevard...

Full story at https://smdp.com/news/transportation/caltrans-to-reduce-i-405-to-three-lanes-through-sepulveda-pass-sept-19-22/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Leak Says It's a Snail's Pace

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

You probably saw the article in the LA Times about the lawsuit filed against the feds by various groups concerning the frozen grants and other elements of the conflict.* If not, here are the take-aways:

Twenty-one groups representing more than 100,000 UC employees sued Trump over the $1.2-billion fine against UCLA.

The lawsuit alleges Trump is illegally forcing conservative ideology on UC education through financial coercion and constitutional violations.

UC, which receives $17 billion in annual federal funding, is concerned over further cuts to campuses and hospitals as investigations continue.

As blog readers will know, there seems to be a leaking of information - including about a 28-page list of demands from the feds - from folks at UC/UCLA. But in the piece above, there is one line at the bottom of particular interest:

Privately, leaders have said many of the Trump demands cross red lines and that negotiations are moving slowly.

So we learn that a) negotiations are continuing (presumably the reason UC has not filed its own lawsuit) but b) they are moving at a snail's pace.

Note that if UC does eventually file a lawsuit, the fact that it negotiated first before filing will help its case in any court deliberations. Flatly rejecting any discussion of the demands at the outset would not be seen as reasonable. Of course, having negotiated doesn't guarantee what might happen were the case to end up at the current US Supreme Court. And, as we have noted, "winning" via the courts about the current grants and penalties doesn't necessarily do much about *future* grant renewals and new grants on which much of south campus (and some of north campus) depend.

UC/UCLA has tended to rely on selling the idea that the Trump administration is using antisemitism as an excuse to foster a larger agenda in higher education. Although that seems to be the case, a focus on the motivation of the Trump administration gets you only so far in court. Either things happened that should not have happened or they didn't. And UCLA has already effectively admitted that things happened in other litigation and by actions later taken including the Frankel case settlement. But it has not settled other outstanding cases that go back to events of 2023-24.

As we have noted before, UC/UCLA would be in a better position should it at some point file its own lawsuit if it cleared the books and separated the past from the present by resolving those cases. Basically, it should take the antisemitism issue off the table, thus depriving the feds of that excuse. Possibly, whoever is making decisions on strategy is waiting for a forthcoming report of a task force on antisemitism at UCLA. By itself, however, the task force - whatever it says - can't settle existing legal cases. Someone else has to decide to do it. It's not clear who decides: The chancellor? The Regents? The UC president? The fact that decision-making is diffuse is not helpful.

Some expensive legal talent has been engaged to conduct negotiations and guide decisions. But here is some free advice from yours truly: UC/UCLA needs to get its house in order and get everyone under the tent before going the legal route.

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*https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2025-09-16/university-of-california-faculty-sue-trump-over-ucla-fine-research-cuts.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 8:47 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UCLA

Flooding the Zone With Words

I think we have all heard the phrase "flooding the zone" in current political usage. It refers to doing so many things at once that it is difficult for anyone to keep up or oppose any one of them.

The Academic Senate has posted a UCOP document of over 100 pages about UC "sustainability" policies dealing with everything from energy supply to food service to construction projects to waste handling to...*

You get the point.

It is filled with buzzwords that sound very nice, or at least very trendy.

Among the words I did not find - surprising given the budget squeeze facing UC - is "cost" or "benefit" or "analysis." As in "cost/benefit analysis." Comments are invited and must be received by December 19.

So here is a modest proposal. How about breaking the report down into individual topics? Pick the one that seems most important, say energy supply. Put that individual report out for review by December 19. (And be sure to include a cost/benefit analysis.) Then repeat the process for each separate topic by seeming order of importance.

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*https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/underreview/systemwide-senate-review-presidential-policy-sustainable-practices-9-12-25.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC, UCOP

Straws in the Wind - Part 105 (and a related note about UCLA)

From WJHL: *Brian Noland, East Tennessee State University president, responded to concerns regarding two professors placed on administrative leave over social media comments about the death of political activist Charlie Kirk. "As I was beginning my day, I would have never envisioned that the day would unfold the way it did," Noland said. "I had learned from information that came into the university that there were university employees who had placed messages on social media that were deeply troubling and concerning. I met with staff, reviewed policy, reviewed out faculty handbook and made the decision to place those faculty on administrative leave so that we could conduct a review of actions." ...*

"The protections of faculty through our tenured promotion process offer a detailed review," he said. "That is the review that will begin in due speed." ...

Full story at https://www.wjhl.com/news/etsu-president-professors-are-tenured-suspension-will-take-time-to-review/.

From WPTV: *Florida Atlantic University (FAU) is now at the center of a growing national debate over political speech. Students on both sides of the political aisle tell WPTV's Michael Hoffman that they denounce political violence. Still, the assassination of Charlie Kirk is dividing people, including over comments made by an FAU professor now under investigation. Tenured professor, Dr. Karen Leader, was placed on leave after sharing multiple posts on X that described Kirk as "racist, transphobic, homophobic and more."*

Nick Coyte, president of FAU's Turning Point USA chapter, the group Kirk founded, said the issue comes down to free speech. "The point is free speech," said Coyte. "We stand for free speech. You have a right to speak. But of course, your employers, if you're in a private institution or even a public institution, if you're not doing the job they've hired you to do, then you could wind up in trouble with them."

In a statement by Nicholas Ostheimer, president of the FAU College Democrats, he called the move by the school "unjust and un-American." ...

Full story at https://www.wptv.com/news/region-s-palm-beach-county/boca-raton/employment-experts-weigh-in-on-fau-professor-placed-on-leave-after-charlie-kirk-post.

From WTVM: *Columbus State University creative writing professor Dr. Allen Gee has resigned from his roles as director of the CSU Press and the D.L. Jordan endowed chair. CSU President Dr. Stuart Rayfield confirmed the decision Monday, saying Gee offered to step down from both posts during a meeting earlier in the day. Rayfield accepted his resignation, but emphasized that Gee will remain a tenured faculty member in the English department.*

The move comes after Gee posted comments last week on the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer website following the assassination of conservative political activist Charlie Kirk in Utah. Rayfield issued a public statement Monday addressing the situation.

"While individuals—students, faculty and staff alike—are entitled to their own personal views under the First Amendment, those views do not represent the university, nor do they necessarily reflect our values. I regret that these comments have become associated with Columbus State and that they have caused anger online and pain in our community." ...

Full story at https://www.wtvm.com/2025/09/15/csu-professor-steps-down-press-chair-roles-after-controversial-post/.

Note: A number of events, such as those above, occurred around the country. Last Sunday, we posted an item about a condemnation by UCLA Chancellor Frenk of a social media post.* The Frenk message was not specific about the post or who the poster was. However, it appears that a UCLA diversity official made comments on Bluesky about the Kirk shooting. The Bluesky account has now been closed. But before it was, yours truly found it contained a long scroll about many issues that I can say were expressed in a tone not usually associated with campus administrators. I'll diplomatically leave it there. The account was interspersed with dog videos which presumably were not the source of the controversy.

UCLA updated its post on this matter after its initial cryptic note:

UCLA statement on campus employee's recent social media content

September 14, 2025

UCLA has placed a campus employee on immediate leave and has launched an investigation following reports of social media posts regarding the murder of Charlie Kirk.

https://newsroom.ucla.edu/ucla-statement-on-recent-social-media-content

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2025/09/think-before-you-tweet.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Columbus State U, diversity, East Tennessee State U, politics, UCLA

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